

See pg. 12



See pg. 6

Volume 82, No. 19

Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922.

March 19, 2009



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

The UMW Bookstore returned to the recently renovated Lee Hall over Spring Break. For the *Bullet's* take on the new renovation, see the Staff Editorial, page 3.

## Devil-Goat Day Rescued

By JESSICA HALE  
Staff Writer

Mary Washington's 83-year tradition of Devil Goat Day was imperiled this week, but last-minute fundraising from concerned student groups has ensured that the event will go on as planned.

At a meeting of the Student Finance Committee on Sunday, Ron Brooks, chair of the committee, announced that the event, which dates back to 1926, lacked funding to provide the \$5,990 that organizers said they still needed. The budget for the event is large due to the wide variety of activities and entertainment provided.

Speculations have been raised as to the reasons behind why Class Council did not have the money it needed, including diminished available revenue for student activities. Joseph Mollo, supervisor of the Office of Student Activities and Community Service, stated that this was not the case.

"The issue is the increase in the number of clubs with each one looking to hold events," Mollo said. "This increase places an increased demand on the budget."

Thus, the money must be spread more thinly across the increased number of organizations. Because Class Council had not finalized contracts with the businesses that would provide cups, food, and t-shirts for the event, they were forced to do their budget request in two stages. When

the second stage arrived and they needed the additional \$5,990, the Finance Committee had already allocated nearly all of their money elsewhere.

Brooks said that he "definitely feel[s] strongly about the tradition. It's really a problem that [the Finance Committee] doesn't have the funding."

During the spring hearings, Class Council asked for \$4,990 to cover the cost of rides and attractions for Devil Goat Day, planned for April 23, according to Mike Kappert, secretary treasurer of Class Council 2011.

The Finance Committee awarded them their entire request at that time, but was unable to provide the additional \$5,990 for which Class Council asked last week to cover the cost of t-shirts, cups, and food for the event. Instead, they were allotted the last bit of money the Finance Committee had: \$2,666.

After Class Council's additional funding still fell short of the required amount, several student organizations pulled together to ensure that one of the oldest traditions at the school was not lost.

Sophomore Cecilia Aquino remembers Devil Goat Day last year as, "a great first impression of this school and how it has maintained its roots despite its 100 year run. It would be unfortunate if the classes after mine

► See DEVIL-GOAT, page 2

## Commuter Lounge in the Works

By JESS MASULLI  
Staff Writer

With the renovations on Lee Hall completed and construction starting on Eagle Village, Student Government Association has taken steps toward re-opening a lounge for commuter students.

The lounge would be a space for all students to socialize and study. A previous commuter lounge was located in the Tan Room of Woodard Campus Center.

Thirty-nine percent of undergraduate students at UMW commute. Commuters include anyone not living in University housing, even if they live a few blocks off campus, according to the 2007-2008 Common Data Set.

On Feb. 19, the Executive Cabinet of SGA passed a motion for the commuter lounge on campus, according to the meeting minutes.

The motion, which has also passed through Student Senate, will now be going to Dean of Student Life Cedric Rucker, according to SGA President Sean O'Brien. It will then be passed to University administrators that will determine if the space and money is available.

The Commuter Student Association has been pushing for a commuter lounge because it believes it will increase communication on campus.

"There is no middle ground for commuters," Association President Anum Shaikh said. "We want cubicles to study in, but also a place to eat and socialize."

According to Hassan Abdelhalim, a student senator, CSA wants to have half the space with desks and half the space with couches.

"We don't want the space to be defined by the environment," Abdelhalim said. "For example, we don't want it to be like the library which is only for studying and the [Eagle's] Nest which is only for socializing."

Abdelhalim and Shaikh agree that a lounge would allow CSA to communicate with commuters on issues affecting them.

"Commuters are a demographic not in touch with the University," Abdelhalim said.

The CSA would like to have a bulletin board in the lounge so the commuters can see events on campus and policy changes, according to CSA Public

► See LOUNGE, page 9



Courtesy of the UMW online archives

UMW students cheer their fellow Devils on at a Devil-Goat Day event in 1957. Devil-Goat Day is a tradition dating back to 1926. This year it is scheduled for April 23.

## Klein Will Undergo Renovations

By BECKY LITTLE  
Staff Writer

Beginning in May of this year and lasting through December 2009, Klein Theatre will be closed due to renovations. As a result, next semester's theatre productions will be held in Studio 115, the school's black-box theatre space.

"Our studio committee is planning full season down there," said Gregg Stull, chair of the Theatre department. Stull is also a director and arts manager for the program.

"It's really exciting because all the productions are student-run," said Bethany Ferrell, a sophomore theatre

major, contrasting the Studio 115 productions to the major productions in Klein Theatre, which are not student-run.

Though Ferrell remarked that some of the students may be nervous about the new type of venue, she felt as though there was a lot of excitement.

However, because of space limitations, the productions in Studio 115 will play to a much smaller venue than usual.

"The studio seats 40 people and right now Klein Theatre seats 295," said Stull. "So, far fewer people will get to see the plays downstairs."

Because the theater department is not sure how many productions of each

play will be produced next semester, it is unsure of how much of an impact the smaller venue will have on revenues.

"It's going to be an exciting year, a different year, and our students are on board," said Stull. "Our activity won't change at all during the renovation, it's just we'll be busy in other spaces."

The renovations are entirely funded by two bonds from the state that are earmarked so that they can only be used for the theatre department.

According to Stull, the bonds were issued eight or nine years ago. However, the department did not begin to plan the renovations until three years

► See KLEIN, page 9

“It’s going to be an exciting year, a different year, and our students are on board.”

—Gregg Stull

## Tw-Lite Purchased for \$1.5 Mill.

By MEGAN EICHENBERG  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 13, the University of Mary Washington Foundation announced its purchase of the Twi-Lite Motel, located in the former Park 'n' Shop shopping center.

It is the foundation's latest acquisition for the future retail mixed-use site, Eagle Village.

The Foundation paid \$1.5 million for the motel after secretly being under contract for about one year, said UMW Foundation CEO Jeff Rountree.

Eagle Village is owned and managed by the University of Mary Washington Foundation, a private 501(c)3 organization, and no state funds or student fees are being used for the project.

The foundation's endowment, which also funds university scholarships, professorships, student programming, academic programming, and other special projects remains untouched, as the project is financed through a loan from Bank of America,

said Rountree.

A Feb. 17 *Free Lance-Star* article said the price the Foundation paid is \$808,000 more than the motel's assessed value.

However, Rountree said the *Free Lance Star* quoted the city's tax assessment on the Twi-Lite Motel, which is not a market appraisal or true value of the land and buildings.

"The tax assessment is a political ratio that determines how much tax a property owner pays the city, not what one would pay for the property. Typically, tax assessments are way lower than actual market appraisals, as is the case with Twi-Lite," Rountree said.

"In the end, the true value of any piece of real estate is what it is worth to the buyer. Because of its location, frontage on Rt. 1, and our need to expand our footprint at Eagle Village to accomplish the vision we have for the project, Twi-Lite was

► See TWI-LITE, page 2



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

## Upcoming Events:

Comedian: Rob Paravonian

Thurs., March 19, 8 p.m., Great Hall.

UMW Employer Fair

Thurs., March 19 4-7 p.m., UMW Stafford campus, North Building.

For more information, check the Career Services website.

Girl Scout Cookies Sale

Thurs., March 19, 4-6 p.m., The Nest. Cookies are \$3.50 per box.

A capella Group Chapter 6

Fri., March 20, 8 p.m., Great Hall. Chapter 6 is a professional a capella ensemble from Illinois

The Undeniably Adjacent Improv Show

Fri., March 20, 8 p.m., Combs 139.

Friday Night Dry

Fri., March 20, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m., Ball Circle. Free food and activities. Organized by the Association of Residence Halls.

Junior Ring Week Kickoff Concert

Sun., March 22, 3-6 p.m., Downtown Marketsquare. Featuring The Like Whatever, The Green Boys, and According to Plan. Free to UMW students and public. See Entertainment, Pg. 5, for more info.

Want to get involved? Come to a staff meeting on Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Bulletin office, located in the lower-level of Seacobeck, or contact [newsxcrew@gmail.com](mailto:newsxcrew@gmail.com)



## Police Beat



Police Beat is still on Spring Break, but check back next issue for your weekly dose of UMW crime reports.

## Student Gov. Election Nominees Announced

By JESS MASULLI  
Staff Writer

Student Government Association nominations on Wednesday, March 18, showed that the next generation of leaders are ready to step up in greater numbers than last year.

There were three nominations for SGA president and four for vice president, a major increase from last year when all positions, except two, ran uncontested.

Every year, students wishing to fill positions such as SGA president and vice president, Judicial Review Board president and Honor Council president, are nominated by student senators.

Nominees then have a week to campaign. On March 25 and 26, students will receive an e-mail asking them to vote via an online survey.

According to some nominees, this election shows that students are taking a greater interest in leading this school in a new direction.

"Next year, we want to redefine the direction of the school," Senator Hassan Abdelhalim, a nominee for SGA vice president, said. "Students are saying 'we want our voice heard at every level at the University.'"

According to Dean of Student Life Cedric Rucker, the number of nominations varies.

"It is different [from] year to year," Rucker said. "It is very exciting with multiple candidates. It is wonderful to see people committing to leadership."

Vice President of SGA Ashley Davis, one of this year's nominees for SGA president, says that the spike in nominees was due to low Senate atten-

dance last year.

"I want people [from Senate] to take the torch," Davis said.

Last year, there were only 20 senators by the end of the year, but this year there are between 40 and 50, according to Davis.

The increased amount of nominees will force students to campaign more aggressively.

"People will have to go door-to-door," Co-Chair for the Election Rules and Procedures Committee Christina Giaimo said. "An election win is about name recognition, because people vote for the name they know on an e-mail ballot."

Students interested in running were expected to go to a SGA workshop that discussed the rules and eligibility, according to Enser Cole, an uncontested nominee for media chair.

"They went over fair practice, such as not tearing down banners and only putting up a certain amount of OSACS approved signs," Cole said.

O'Brien said that he would have welcomed a competition last year, when he ran uncontested.

"There is a part of me that wanted to be run against," O'Brien said. "People have seen changes this year, so it feeds the desire."

According to O'Brien, there are typically two or three people running for SGA president every year.

The nominees began campaigning for their positions as soon as the Senate meeting adjourned. Students rushed to Lee Hall to hang sheets and paper signs off the balcony.

Throughout the week, students can expect to see and hear such evidence of campaigning as students try to get their names out.

According to Davis, this shows that student leaders are getting involved with important issues even more.

"The SGA President will be steering the direction on important issues," SGA President Sean O'Brien said.

The increased amount of nominees will force students to campaign more aggressively.

"People will have to go door-to-door," Co-Chair for the Election Rules and Procedures Committee Christina Giaimo said. "An election win is about name recognition, because people vote for the name they know on an e-mail ballot."

Students interested in running were expected to go to a SGA workshop that discussed the rules and eligibility, according to Enser Cole, an uncontested nominee for media chair.

"They went over fair practice, such as not tearing down banners and only putting up a certain amount of OSACS approved signs," Cole said.

O'Brien said that he would have welcomed a competition last year, when he ran uncontested.

"There is a part of me that wanted to be run against," O'Brien said. "People have seen changes this year, so it feeds the desire."

According to O'Brien, there are typically two or three people running for SGA president every year.

The nominees began campaigning for their positions as soon as the Senate meeting adjourned. Students rushed to Lee Hall to hang sheets and paper signs off the balcony.

Throughout the week, students can expect to see and hear such evidence of campaigning as students try to get their names out.

According to Davis, this shows that student leaders are getting involved with important issues even more.

"The SGA President will be steering the direction on important issues," SGA President Sean O'Brien said.

The increased amount of nominees will force students to campaign more aggressively.

"People will have to go door-to-door," Co-Chair for the Election Rules and Procedures Committee Christina Giaimo said. "An election win is about name recognition, because people vote for the name they know on an e-mail ballot."

Students interested in running were expected to go to a SGA workshop that discussed the rules and eligibility, according to Enser Cole, an uncontested nominee for media chair.

"They went over fair practice, such as not tearing down banners and only putting up a certain amount of OSACS approved signs," Cole said.

O'Brien said that he would have welcomed a competition last year, when he ran uncontested.

"There is a part of me that wanted to be run against," O'Brien said. "People have seen changes this year, so it feeds the desire."

According to O'Brien, there are typically two or three people running for SGA president every year.

The nominees began campaigning for their positions as soon as the Senate meeting adjourned. Students rushed to Lee Hall to hang sheets and paper signs off the balcony.

Throughout the week, students can expect to see and hear such evidence of campaigning as students try to get their names out.

According to Davis, this shows that student leaders are getting involved with important issues even more.

"The SGA President will be steering the direction on important issues," SGA President Sean O'Brien said.

The increased amount of nominees will force students to campaign more aggressively.

"People will have to go door-to-door," Co-Chair for the Election Rules and Procedures Committee Christina Giaimo said. "An election win is about name recognition, because people vote for the name they know on an e-mail ballot."

## Class Council Under-Funded

◀ DEVIL-GOAT, page 1

could not witness it."

Class Council was determined to find the additional \$3,324 they needed to fill the gap between their requested and awarded dollar amounts, and decided to turn to fellow campus organizations for help.

According to Claire Copps, junior co-chair of Giant Productions, the student-run entertainment committee, Class Council hadn't even approached them directly before Giant caught wind that the organization was in need.

When asked about Giant's decision to give a portion of the money awarded to them by the Finance Committee to the Devil Goat Day cause, Copps referred to a sense of cooperation and camaraderie between student organizations.

"If we needed money, they'd give some to us, so we'll give some to them," Copps said.

According to Copps, she and the other Giant members didn't want the event to go without the t-shirts Class Council annually provides to Mary Washington students. For this and other accessory items, Giant Productions has confirmed that it will be donating \$1,000 of their allotted money to the cause.

Also on the list of confirmed contributors is Cheap Seats, the organization that brings dollar movies to campus each weekend, as well as special film events once a month. They held a meeting on Monday night and voted unanimously to give all of their extra money back to the Financial Committee, essentially giving it straight to Class Council's fund for Devil Goat Day.

Mike Kappert, also the co-president of Cheap Seats, predicted that the total amount will be anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,000, capping off the amount Class Council needed to run Devil Goat Day as planned.

"Devil Goat Day was one of the Financial Committee's top priorities because it's one of the unique traditions at Mary Washington, and it is one the university wants to preserve," Kappert said.

Among other things, Class Council has planned for the event to include an inflatable obstacle course, a rock wall, two inflatable Twister games, and air-brush tattoos.

The event also usually provides students with a variety of standard carnival food, such as snow cones, pizza, popcorn, and cotton candy. It is this large production that makes the event attract one of the largest campus crowds all year.

## Foundation Purchased Motel for Expansion

◀ TWI-LITE, page 1

definitely worth \$1.5 million to the UMW Foundation," said Rountree.

Rountree said the motel's location factored into the decision to purchase the building.

"Securing Twi-Lite allows us to open up the view into the center, or have additional land to alter the current property into something new," Rountree said.

Rountree said the Foundation has no plans for the building until demolition, which is not likely occur for at least six months.

All utilities have been turned off, and the Foundation donated contents such as furniture, televisions, and refrigerators to the local Goshen Baptist Church Association's Rural Love Ministry, which helps needy families in the region.

Rountree said four or five rooms in the motel were occupied on more than a nightly basis, and two people were already planning to move and left without assistance.

"For the other three people, we quietly surveyed a number of motels that offered a similar rate in the area and struck a deal with one of the motel owners to take the Twi-Lite residents and for the same rate they were already paying," Rountree said.

Rountree said the Foundation also provided an undisclosed amount of financial assistance to each tenant for moving costs or rent to get them started at their new home.

"I personally felt obligated to help those folks, people that are clearly down on their luck and have few options for housing," Rountree said.

The Foundation announced its purchase of the Park 'n' Shop retail center on Dec. 7, 2007 for \$115 million.

According to the Eagle Village

website, the vision for Eagle Village is, "A pedestrian-friendly residential and retail mixed-use facility for townspeople, students and faculty to shop, live, work and enjoy entertaining facilities...all within a sustainable 'green' urban setting."

The construction of Eagle Village will include multiple phases.

The target date for completion of Phase I is the summer 2010, and will include a pedestrian bridge over Route 1, additional student housing to include 620 beds, a transportation center for 540 cars and 200 bicycles, 30,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, and 36,000 square feet of office space.

"For the city, Eagle Village is seen as a massive urban renewal project that will help energize an older section of the Route 1 corridor and be able to meet almost word-for-word the aspirations of the city's JumpStart! Program," Rountree said.

According to the City of Fredericksburg website, JumpStart! Fredericksburg 2010 is a committee of the Economic Development Authority.

Its goals include identifying development opportunities and needs, rendering development examples for each city commercial area with recognized needs, and improving quality of life amenities and enhance economic development opportunities.

Past JumpStart! Projects include providing \$5,000 funding to the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts to upgrade their facility, \$24,000 to Kybecca for façade and streetscape improvements, and \$5,000 to The Grifin Bookshop and Coffee Bar for expansion.

"For the students and faculty, we are creating an exciting urban village of shops, offices, and places for people to live. Specific to the students will be

premium apartment style housing of a quality level we have never enjoyed at UMW," said Rountree.

Rountree says the Foundation has received hundreds of e-mails and letters about Eagle Village through the Eagle Village website located at [www.umn.edu/eaglevillage](http://www.umn.edu/eaglevillage), and that he has personally read and responded to each piece of feedback.

Rountree has also been working with Andrea Livi Smith's Historic Preservation 469 Laboratory in Preservation Planning course, which focuses on Eagle Village development.

The class created an anonymous survey with questions about desired food, shopping, service, and entertainment establishments and design preferences.

"We decided to create the survey in order to involve as much of the UMW community as possible in coming up with plans and ideas for Eagle Village. We wanted to get student perspectives on the project in particular," said senior Carley Leins.

Leins said over 450 people have taken the survey so far, located at <http://www.surveymonkey.com>.

"Together the class and our professor, Andi Livi-Smith, brainstormed the ideas by looking at the main issues posed by Eagle Village and forming the questions around those important issues," said Leins.

There is also a UMW Eagle Village Student Survey Forum Facebook group linking to the survey.

"Students should take this survey because this is a really important issue for the University and we believe that they should have input and be heard on this issue," said Leins.

Leins said the class plans to leave the survey up until March 25.

### Correction:

James Waalkes' name was misspelled on the front page of the Feb. 26 issue in the photo caption for the article entitled "Music Department Enforces Practice Room Rules..."

# Viewpoints

## Lee Hall Renovations A Vast Improvement

The new Lee Hall sure is pretty, but couldn't they have waited to open it until everything was finished?

Apparently, the University didn't even give the Bookstore staff time to move in all the way, let alone figure out where everything was. When store employees say, "If you need help finding anything, your guess is as good as ours," it might be a good idea to postpone the opening a little bit.

That said, the new Bookstore is

vastly improved over the last two. For one thing, it actually has windows. You heard right: no nasty, depressing, fluorescent tint bearing down on merchandise and shoppers.

Not only that, there's also room to move around and form a line that doesn't get in the way of everything and clog up the store.

The Underground is scheduled to reopen at the beginning of next year, which will give campus a distinctly more satisfying venue than Great Hall for comedians and small concerts.

Then there's the revamped Student Services center occupying the space that was the old Lee Hall bookstore.

There's even a bank of easy chairs to keep you comfy while you wait. The registrar, cashier, student accounts and financial aid offices are right next to each other and clearly marked, you know, in case you actually have important things to take care of.

What's more, the offices are conveniently located on the first floor,

which makes them not only easy to navigate, but easy to find.

The only issue we can find with the renovations is the partitioning of the old ballroom. Seriously, what gives?

You'd have thought that if you needed to break up a single large space into several smaller ones, the hideous Great Hall would be the obvious choice.

But no. Instead, the University tore apart one of the most attractive single spaces on campus to make three

smaller and decidedly less attractive rooms.

Now the space that had once held small campus gatherings and acoustic music is no more.

Sure, the Underground will make a great substitute for the space, but a bar isn't the same thing as an old-school ballroom. The charm just isn't there.

On the outside, Lee Hall looks pretty much the same, save the big rear-end tacked on to the Sunken Road side of the building to accommodate the new Bookstore and office space.

From the front, though, the only real evidence of any renovations is a new patio and some landscaping at the entrance to the Underground.

All in all, the renovations to Lee will help bring the University's appearance and aesthetics up to its academic standards.

Upon completion of the badly needed updating of Monroe Hall next year, UMW might actually start looking as impressive as our brochures say we do.

## Staff Editorial

## Popular Locks of Love Charity Is Not the Only Option Out There

BY LAURA PILATI  
Guest Columnist

The following was written in response to "UMW Gives Lots of 'Locks'" (Feb. 26, 2009, The Bulletin):

About five months ago, I had every intention of donating my mid-back blonde hair to the non-profit known as Locks of Love.

And then I didn't. Locks of Love is an organization known for making wigs for children out of the real hair donations they receive. The not-for-profit has existed since 1997 and receives thousands of donations every week.

The interesting thing about Locks of Love, however, isn't what they do. It's what they don't do.

Around the time that I decided I wanted to keep my hair on my own head, I had joined an online community for women with long hair. Though my reasons for joining the community were not related to my wishes to donate to Locks of Love, the topic inevitably came up among members. I remember one post that began,

"I just got back from the hairdressers and can't stop sobbing. My hip length hair now reaches my shoulders. I don't even care about that little girl Mary...give me my hair back!!"

The author was writing about a recent donation she had made to Locks of Love. Within several minutes, hesitant yet harried responses came in.

"I hate to tell you this..."

I was soon gawking at the accusations being made before my eyes on the screen. Locks of Love, perhaps one of the best known non-profits among women and little girls, was being cut out as nothing more than a corrupt organization known only because of word-of-mouth. Members of the online community were spouting out information that I had never heard—that Locks of Love didn't report to the Better Business Bureau for years, they only made 113 wigs in 2002, they threw away over 80% of the donations they received and didn't report all their earnings. I didn't know what to think. So I researched on my own.

A 2007 *New York Times* article quickly pointed me in the right direction. The article, entitled "Lather, Rinse, Donate," discusses several hair donation organizations, among them Locks of

Love. In the article is part of an actual interview with Locks of Love president Madonna Coffman. "A check would be easier for me," she says. "But would the donors get out of it what they do? No."

What I read backed up what I had initially heard, and Locks of Love still isn't completely cleared on the Better Business Bureau's list, mostly because they refuse to report all of their financial information.

I went back to the community and realized that responses were now not only written out of concern for the organization, but out of concern for women. It seemed that many members—some with hair they'd never cut in their lives—were often harassed by friends, family, and even strangers into donating to Locks of Love. For some reason, people thought that these women should give up a part of themselves simply because they had something others did not. While this may seem selfish at first glance, one woman brought up a good point.

"Usually I turn to the person and say, 'I see you're wearing a nice sweater. Why don't you take that off and give it to a homeless person?'"

Another woman was more sincere. "Some of us don't want to give up our hair because it's one precious thing we have, even if we have nothing else."

While reading the *Bullet's* coverage of the women's basketball team's event, I took one look at the two girls on the bottom left corner of the article and said, "They don't want to do that."

Those girls were cutting off something that made them feel beautiful, and they knew it. What I want to tell them is that they can still feel beautiful and unselfish, all in keeping their hair.

Volunteer at a local soup kitchen. Read to children. Visit an elderly folks home. Clean up your neighborhood. Give up your Saturday afternoon to play with pets at the SPCA. Your hair will grow back, but your time won't. Which do you think has more value? A \$3,000 hairpiece or the happiness you create by spending your weekends playing with the child who would receive it?

Laura Pilati is a junior.



Joey Merkel/Bullet

Freshman basketball player Katharine Wilson getting her hair cut for the Locks of Love charity event held at Coolrick Gymnasium on Feb. 18.

## Saint Patrick's Day

The day when Irish grandparents around the world teach college kids how to drink.



Personally? I'm scared S\*\*TLESS of my 84 yr-old Nana!

Copyright 2009—Steve Karkos

the  
Bulletin

Editor in Chief  
Elizabeth  
Nowrouz

Serving the University of  
Mary Washington  
Community since 1922.

Associate Editor  
Susannah Clark

News Editor: Kat Saunders  
News Editor: Heather Brady  
Viewpoints Editor: Miles Dumville  
Features Editor: Brittany Devries  
Sports Editor: Joey Merkel  
Entertainment Editor: Aaron Richardson  
Photography Editor: Emily McAlpine  
Business Manager: Mike Downey  
Finance Manager: Bud McDonald  
Webmaster: Allen John Schmidt, Jr.  
Adviser: Michael McCarthy

Asst. Viewpoints Editor: Breeanna Sveum  
Asst. Features Editor: Kaitlin Mayhew  
Asst. Features Editor: Anne Longbeam  
Asst. Entertainment Editor: Ryan Marr  
Asst. News Editor: Jess Masulli  
Asst. Sports Editor: Nick Nelson  
Asst. Photography Editor: Samantha Daniel

The Bulletin is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the Bulletin adviser.

### Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbulet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the Bulletin at 540-654-1133.



# Viewpoints

## Porn During Sex: Stimulating Aide or Distracting Overkill?

A few days ago, while I was getting ready for a party with some girlfriends, we got to talking about unusual things that have happened with past sexual encounters.

Of course some pretty crazy stories came up, like boyfriends who came in costumes or yelled out strange things during the act.

But one common occurrence that all three of us had was having a boyfriend play porn during sex.

What was even more intriguing was how each of us had reacted differently to the sex-porn combo.

One of the girls looked at us with a devilish smile, stating that she found it hot and was down for it if he was.

My other friend said, in a loving tone, that if it was something her boyfriend really wanted she would consider it and possibly do it for a special occasion.

As for me? I consider myself pretty open minded about trying new things but porn during sex just doesn't make sense to me.

Why would you watch the food network when you've already made the cake and have a fork in your hand and a glass of milk on the table?

Sure, I've heard some reasons why some people like it: the film enhances the mood, it's an inspiration device, it's kinky.

But I only see it as a distraction, not to mention that watching porn seems like a more personal practice to me.

Granted, I've had both guy and girlfriends talk about how they watch porn with friends like it's no big deal (more on the guy side than the girl side).

What intrigues me even more is that porn is such a common thing in our society, yet we still act shocked and amazed when people admit to having used,

watched, or bought XXX material.

From a posting by Michael Arrington on techcrunch.com titled "Internet Pornography Stats," I found that the porn industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that has \$89 spent on it every second.

With 12% of Internet sites labeled as pornographic and 260 new porn sites being put up on a daily basis, is it any wonder that so many people are terrified of their children going online?

So yes, porn is everywhere and applies to a lot of people out there.

But if you are intrigued with the idea of doing the deed while the televisions

on please, please talk to your special someone before hitting the "on" button.

I have heard so many stories of hot times turning ice-cold because of a surprise porn appearance.

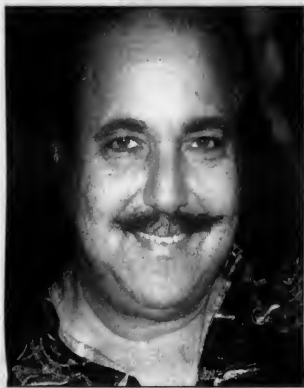


photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

Porn Star Ron Jeremy

## Changes to Facebook Show Public Obsession

Last Thursday, while embarking upon the Facebook portion of my paper-writing procrastination routine, my computer screen suddenly became bombarded with outraged status updates:

"Jennifer Jupiter hates the new Facebook."

"Samantha Spade thinks the new Facebook is ugly. Why is my name in blue?"

"Booger Jenkies Wtf Facebook?!"

Facebook changed its layout again, and everyone typed their piece, even yours truly: "Why is Facebook trying to be Twitter now?" read my status.

The question is not why Facebook decided to make changes to its webpage, however; it's 'why do we all care so much?' in the first place.

Every time Facebook gets a facelift, the world stops. Ten thousand "10,000 people against the newest New Facebook" Groups are formed, with whiney status aplenty. You remember them all: the day that high school Facebook merged with college Facebook, the day that networks become obsolete, the day that the fixed "is" was removed from status updates and of course, the birth of stalker-friendly News feed, a day that will live in infamy.

And yet, somehow, we all manage to eventually accept the new layouts, move on with our lives and patiently await the next digital change to complain-to-no-one about.

As depressed as I am to admit this, one website has changed the way we communicate forever. Once a silly forum for campus gossip and a replacement for Spider Solitaire as an antidote for boredom, Facebook is now not only a serious networking tool, but an essential one.

President Obama owes half his candidacy to Facebook campaigning. As the original class of Facebookers have now long graduated, instead

of pictures of new emo haircuts and beer pong tournaments, people are posting engagement ring photos, wedding pictures and even sonograms. Employers and grad school scouts recruit based on Facebook profiles. Relationships have started (and ended) on a website.

In the past year especially, Facebook has crossed the generation gap; baby boomers and gen-Xers now tag themselves in grey-haired photos and Notes about bosses, professors and youth pastors.

While I find myself accepting many of my friends' parents' friend requests, the thought of my own parents on Facebook is, to be frank, vomit-inducing. The humiliation of my mom "poking" my ex-boyfriends is more than I can handle. So far, I've managed to keep my father

from signing up for an account by threatening to marry a Republican.

As the "real world" ominously approaches and my life continues to be digitally documented, I start to wonder whether my initial plan to get rid of my Facebook account come Graduation Day is outdated. Facebook may have grown out of college, but have I grown out of Facebook?

As much as I'd like to think of myself as a purest who's immune

to peer pressure and the vermin that is technology, I'm not. As long as there are still poke wars and copyright-infringing Scrabble games, I'll probably have a Facebook page until the day I die.

Just as long as no one posts and tags pictures from my funeral.



Susannigans  
By Susannah Clark,  
Associate Editor

“  
The question is not why Facebook decided to make changes to its webpage, however; it's 'why do we all care so much?'  
”

## Get on your knees, scumbag!



photo courtesy of codinghorror.com

And submit your opinions to  
umwbullet@gmail.com

# Entertainment

## 'Carry the Weight' a Disappointment

*Denison Witmer's Latest Release Lets Down Beautiful Music With Sub-Par Lyricism*

By **AARON RICHARDSON**  
Staff Writer

The big problem with going to see shows in bars is that you always walk away with a \$15 CD by an artist whose set you can't remember and whose music you wind up hating.

Combining alcohol, live music and a merch table is a well-known dirty trick and I had been pretty good about avoiding it. That is until I saw Denison Witmer at the Loft last month.

This time though, I bought the CD not because I was in a wallet-draining stupor, but because I was genuinely intrigued by what I had heard. Witmer is a singer-songwriter who grew up a Mennonite in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His music is reminiscent of Elliott Smith's melodious acoustic-guitar driven work.

In concert, Witmer is typical indie singer-songwriter material. He punctuates songs with timid humor and stories of the origins of certain tracks. Witmer looks shy, hunched over and straining to reach over a dreadnaught-style Martin acoustic.

Add a too-tight t-shirt and zip hoodie to the mix, and you get an uncanny likeness to a 16 year-old high-school outcast.

Witmer is on tour to promote his latest album "Carry the Weight." Witmer's work on "Carry the Weight" is pure sulky, introspective folk. Listening to the record is at

times uplifting, but its general sentiment is loneliness and longing.

On the title track Witmer asserts "I'm not afraid to say I don't know," which pretty accurately sums up how I feel about "Carry the Weight."

On the one hand, Witmer's tunes are beauti-

fully arranged across the board. Not once during the album does his musicianship get lazy and each track is as hauntingly beautiful as the one before it. The trouble is, Witmer's content doesn't grab me.

On the single "Life Before Aesthetics," Witmer drones about the perceived importance of

material goods, but he doesn't sell us anything new. Witmer opens the song with "I've got more important things than shiny diamond rings and modern furniture," as if nobody else does. It's a tired sentiment that came to maturity in the late-90s neo-hippy fad.

"Carry the Weight" also explores the heights of sickeningly sweet. Tracks like "Song of Songs" are sure to induce vomiting in anyone who doesn't keep a Beanie Baby collection and decorate their home with Anne Geddes calendars.

The real problem that I have with the album is that it could have been a fantastic piece of work. The song structure is there, the music is beautiful, the melodies touching, and then Mr. Witmer opens his brooding yap and it all falls apart.

The lyrics don't quite make the album unlistenable, but they sure don't add anything to it either. It comes down to the fact that Witmer isn't a lazy lyricist, he's a bad lyricist.

The attempt is there to channel the kind of emotion into his work that the truly great songwriters have, it just isn't coming together. Witmer's lyrics lack the immediate poignancy of influences like Jackson Browne and fail to reach a wider audience. To Witmer himself the songs may well be as poignant as they come, but you could have fooled me.



image courtesy of ondarock.it

## Junior Ring Week Has Free Hot Air Balloon Rides

*Class Council Promises Music, Free Food, and Yes, Hot Air Balloons*

By **AARON RICHARDSON**  
Staff Writer

Junior Ring Week kicks off March 22, which for most of campus means more free food and promotional cups than you can possibly have use for. For juniors, it means living in fear for a week while your "friends" plan "hilarious" pranks to pull on you.

To kick off the festivities, Class Council and Giant are hosting an open-air free show in downtown's scenic Market Square. Featuring campus up and comers the Like Whatever and Fredericksburg veterans the Green Boys, the show kicks off at 3 p.m.

The show in Market Square is only the beginning of the week's festivities. Other activities will

include an egg hunt from 4-6 p.m. on March 23, which is open to all students.

"There will be eggs with candy in them all over campus, but there will be special eggs for juniors with slips in them to claim bigger prizes like a digital camera and a GPS system," says 2010 Class Council President Chelsea Devening.

"The kickoff concert is going to be awesome because many of the bands playing are local or are Mary Washington students," Devening adds.

"It'll be a great time to be outside

with your friends, get free food, listen to music and relax."

There will be two hours of hot air balloon rides on Thursday open only to juniors. Rides are limited to four people at a time.

Line up early to get an exclusive bird's-eye view of Fredericksburg. If bad weather rears its ugly head as it often does in March, not to worry, balloon rides will be rescheduled.

To round out the week, Class Council will hold the Junior Ring Dance on Sat-

urday, March 28. The event is open only to juniors, but students may bring guests to the free event.

Class Council will be giving away exclusive shot glasses to the juniors who attend. Again, showing up early is a must for a free shot glass. The dance will be in Great Hall and is free.

The featured event of the week, Junior Ring Ceremony, will be on Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium.

Juniors who got a ring and plan to attend the Ring Ceremony are required to participate in Ring Ceremony rehearsal on Wed., March 25 at 4 p.m. in Dodd.

Junior Ring Week promises plenty of action, entertainment and Domino's for all comers. Show up early to fully exploit everything the week has in store.



image courtesy of wondersofthewind.com

**Hey, you. Yeah, you in the UMW sweatshirt, I'm talkin' to you. Class registration is next week and you haven't added Newspaper Practicum to your schedule yet. You know what I do to people who don't sign up for Practicum? It ain't pretty.**



**So, if you don't want me on your case, you'll sign up. It's only one day a week, so it's not like it's a stressful commitment. So man up, you bum.**

image courtesy of flickr.com

# Entertainment

## Nihilist Heroes set 'Watchmen' Apart

Zack Snyder's Latest Film Shows the Dark Side of the Superhero

By ALEX CULBRETH  
Staff Writer

In Zack Snyder's "Watchmen," the audience becomes immediately intrigued. The film opens with the death of the vigilante hero, The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), a montage showcasing the rise and fall of the original group of heroes, The Minutemen in the 1940s, and the rise of the second generation of heroes, The Watchmen.

The opening montage functions as a backstory for The Minutemen, displaying their glory days as well as their eventual downfall.

One hero is hauled off to a mental asylum while another is shown dead at the scene of a crime. This important scene imparts a truth shared by all the film's superheroes, with the exception of Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup): They possess no superpowers; they are all "only human."

Since the superheroes are merely human and don't possess laser vision, the ability to fly or any other powers, they are subject to the same weaknesses and imperfections as normal people. This is what truly sets "Watchmen" apart from other superhero films.

For instance, "Watchmen" touches on a disorienting emotional and sexual relationship between Silk Spectre II (Malin Akerman) and Dr. Manhattan. Silk Spectre II then runs into the waiting

arms of the film's somewhat geeky hero, Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson).

Amid this superhero love triangle, the hardened, gruff Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley) goes in search of the person that killed The Comedian.

While the other heroes have hung up their costumes and attempt

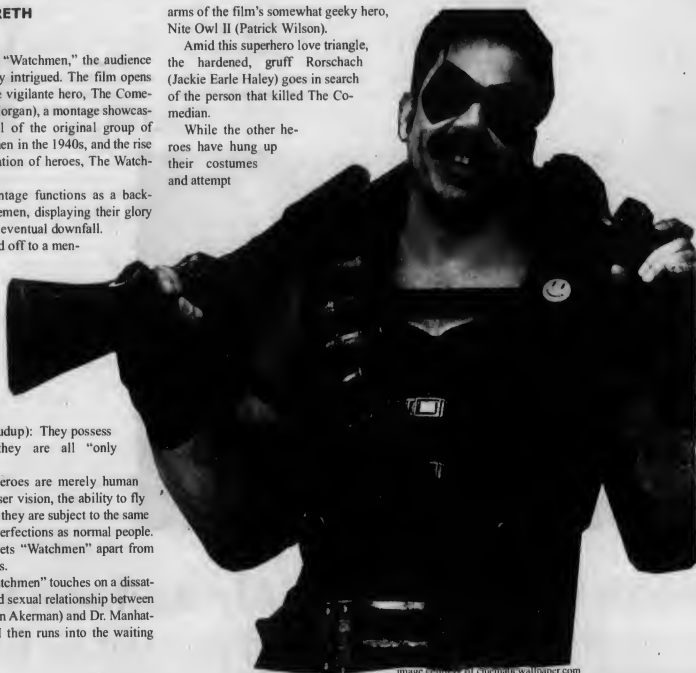


image courtesy of cinematicwallpaper.com

to enjoy their retired lives, Rorschach remains obsessed with maintaining his superhero responsibilities, patrolling the streets, hidden behind a mask of shifting inkblots.

The film's antagonist, Ozymandias (Matthew Goode), is a former member of the Watchmen who has gone on to create a superhero merchandise empire out of his former stint alongside the other heroes.

Amid the backdrop of a fictional 1980s in which Nixon is still in office, the heroes must deal not only with the search for The Comedian's murderer, but also their own temptations, obsessions and corruption.

In one flashback, The Comedian fires a shotgun into a crowd of protestors. Looking on in disgust, Nite Owl II asks, "What happened to the American dream?"

"It came true!" the Comedian responds.

In most other "standard" superhero comics and movies, this sort of nihilism and bitterness is not normally expressed in a character that is supposed to represent the "good guy."

This humanization of superheroes (who are supposed to be "above human") is what makes "Watchmen" a truly unique film.

Though the plot of "Watchmen" becomes slightly muddled as the film progresses, I feel that the presence of a concise, linear plot was not the point of the movie.

The film has its faults, just like its characters, but "Watchmen" has a unique concept that is executed wonderfully: the representation of superheroes as human, complete with all the flaws and eccentricities that accompany humanity.

On these grounds, "Watchmen" is definitely worth watching.

## Michael Jackson's Back:

The King of Pop Returns for 50 Final Shows

By LANDON JAMES  
Staff Writer

Just when you thought some artists never learned, Michael Jackson has agreed to appease his fans by playing to crowds one last time.

The King of Pop, now a remarkable 50 years old, will dawn the penny loafers and rhinestone-studded glove for one last tour beginning this summer.

Michael Jackson has agreed to play 50 shows at London's premier O2 Arena in what Jackson has aptly titled the "This Is It" tour, according to Google News.

Jackson originally announced in July, 2008, that he would be playing 10 concerts in the upcoming year; however, due to the remarkable demand by fans, Jackson agreed to 40 more shows and AEG Live added them to the docket.

Tickets officially went on sale at 7 a.m. Friday, March 13, and sold out within hours as hundreds of fans lined up outside the O2 arena waiting for their chance to be a part of history.

Out of 500,000 tickets, 336,000 sold out almost immediately in a special promotional presale before Friday. The remaining tickets sold out almost immediately.

The concerts, beginning July 8, will stretch into February 2010 and will be Jackson's first concert performance since 2001, first world tour in over 12 years and first public per-

formances since his child sex trials. The shows come only four years after Jackson was cleared of child abuse in the United States.

"These will be my final performances in London," Jackson announced to the thousands of fans who gathered for a live press release in front of the O2 Arena. "I will be performing the songs my fans want to hear."

Jackson is training an army of doubles to aid him in performing his more energetic and physically-demanding exercises, according to Bild.com.

However, Jackson's health has come up as a concern, and many are wondering if these last shows might push Jackson to the edge, or possibly even kill him.

Tim Leiweke, the CEO and President of AEG, has been trying to persuade Jackson to stage a comeback tour for two years. Leiweke also denied any claims that Jackson's health is too poor for the performances and stated that Jackson had to take a physical for the concerts, according to Canada.com.

Only time will tell the impact and music records these shows could break. With tickets ranging from 60 to 75 pounds to now well over 2,500 pounds, Jackson is expected to make millions of pounds through his comeback.

Until then, the world must wait until July 8 to see the King of Pop reclaim his throne on the global stage.



image courtesy of imagesceleb9.com

## Charity Compilation Raises AIDS Awareness, Rocks Out 'Dark Was the Night' Unifies Indie Rockers Behind a Good Cause

By RYAN MARR  
Staff Writer

I owe the music industry a long-overdue admission of guilt: I download music illegally. There, I said it—anyone under the age of 30: feel free to cast the first stone.

From my early prepubescent experiments with Kazaa (which may or may not have crashed my family's computer) to my current fixation with peer-to-peer file sharing giant Bit Torrent, I've always managed to get my grubby little thrif-stained hands on the latest music free of charge.

Enter "Dark Was the Night," the charity compilation sponsored by Red Hot, produced by brothers Aaron and Bryce Dessner (of the National) and featuring a track-list that reads like the roster of a 2009 indie rock all-star game.

Naturally, my conscience faced a seizure-inducing moral dilemma as I sat in front of my laptop, internally debating the ethical implications of illegally downloading a charity album.

The charity—the Red Hot Organization—is a 20-year-old company committed to eradicating AIDS and HIV by means of spreading awareness and raising money through popular culture.

"Dark Was the Night" not only uses popular culture to promote a charitable cause, but, with an arsenal of exclusive, original tracks from a plethora of emerging independent artists including

the Decemberists, Arcade Fire, the National, My Morning Jacket and Sufjan Stevens, the compilation ends up redefining it in the process.

It's near impossible to imagine a charity compilation that, despite sporting a few stand-out tracks, doesn't inevitably sink under the weight of half-baked meanderings from apathetic, yet lucrative, ego-tripping musicians.

With the exception of Buck 65's misstep, and a surprisingly lackluster Spoon song, "Dark Was the Night" notably manages to score gems from artists whose individual

contributions are as ambitious in musical quality as the album is in scope.

I like to think of it as the Planet Earth of charity compilations.

Cramming 31 tracks over two discs, cleverly entitled "This Disc" and "That Disc," the Dessner brothers' finally succeed in drawing up the first blueprints for a scene still too young to recognize its own significance.

The end result is a sprawling, panoramic view of the current landscape of independent music.

"This Disc" showcases this landscape's pas-

sage, folk-derived roots with sparse arrangements from bearded neo-folkies Bon Iver and Iron & Wine, a surprisingly mournful duet between Feist and Death Cab for Cutie front man Ben Gibbard, and yet another brooding triumph from the National.

"That Disc" takes a more diverse approach, pitting the accordion-driven pop of Beirut against Cat Power's bluesy, organ-sized pipes and the soft, piano drone-musings of Yo La Tengo.

Sufjan Stevens even breaks his recent radio silence to lend the album its crowning achievement: a 10-minute Casanovian's cover that features a skittering drum machine, a classical piano interlude, and horns that could have been ripped from an Ennio Morricone soundtrack.

It's a wonder and a testament to the Dessner brothers' curative abilities that this eclectic collection of young artists feels like a cohesive statement at all, much less like the definitive statement of a generation of musicians.

"Dark Was the Night" evokes a "fallen" world of struggle, but also the capacity of art to inspire us to rise above the obstacles put in our path," Bryce Dessner writes in the liner notes of the album. "Our nights may be dark, but music gives us inspiration and hope of brighter days to come."

Not only is "Dark Was the Night" worth its weight in gold doubloons, it comes wrapped in a mantra that even a stingy, money-hoarding music



Image courtesy of aimstreet.com

# Features

## Profile: Alaha Ahrar at UMW

By VIRGINIA SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Freshman Alaha Ahrar believes that she represents a different Afghanistan; at 20 years old, she has high ambitions and is well on her way to achieving her goals.

William Crawley, Distinguished Professor of history for 40 years here at UMW, and his wife Theresa Crawley, are Ahrar's US sponsors.

The Crawleys, after learning that UMW was partaking in an organization called Initiative to Educate Afghan Women have already been sponsors for two other students.

Theresa Crawley runs her own dentistry office on Fall Hill Avenue, here in Fredericksburg, and provides dental care for each young woman who comes to study.

Ahrar began studying English at an early age despite the incredulosity of her neighbors and friends. In fact, she is an advocate for the education of women in Afghanistan, where women very rarely get the chance to finish our version of high school let alone attend the few universities in the country.

By the time of an Afghan girl's eighteenth birthday, many already have their marriage arranged and their lives planned for them.

Ahrar is one of the few given a chance to break the mold.

She is the daughter of a retired banker and a housewife. From a seemingly ordinary family, she arose with aspirations of being the first female president of Afghanistan.

Her English studies inspired her desire to one day go to the US to be educated. Ahrar got mixed reactions from neighbors and family friends; they either laughed at her in slight ridicule, attributing her dreams to the fact she was a child or praised her ambition and wished her the best.

However, Ahrar maintained her dreams of coming to US; when asked why she chose America, she replied, "Because I saw it as the top, the best."

Despite Ahrar's high hopes, then and now, she remains very loyal to her parents and always asks permission and their blessing on everything she does. Her parents may seem liberal to let their daughter travel abroad to further her education despite the danger she could be



Courtesy of IEAW NEWS

**Alaha Ahrar, an international exchange student from Afghanistan, stands with her Initiative to Educate Afghan Women sponsors, Dr. William Crawley and his wife Dr. Theresa Crawley. Ahrar will be studying at the University for the next four years.**

in for her progressive thinking. However, Ahrar described them as somewhat moderate amidst the society of Afghanistan.

Ahrar knew early on that in order to reach the level of education to which

she aspired, she would be forced to travel outside her country. She explained that it is simply not safe for women to go to school, or even to travel to and from school.

It is, however, acceptable in

Afghanistan for a woman to have a job, but safety is still an issue. Ahrar herself had a driver who chauffeured her to and from work.

The abundance of colleges and universities in Afghanistan is also stagger-

ingly different from in the US.

The Kabul University of Afghanistan is the main public university that provides learning and higher

See Ahrar, page 8 ▶

## Fight Violence With Ribbons

By MEGAN ORTIZ  
Staff Writer

The White Ribbon Campaign's ultimate goal is to completely eradicate male violence against women.

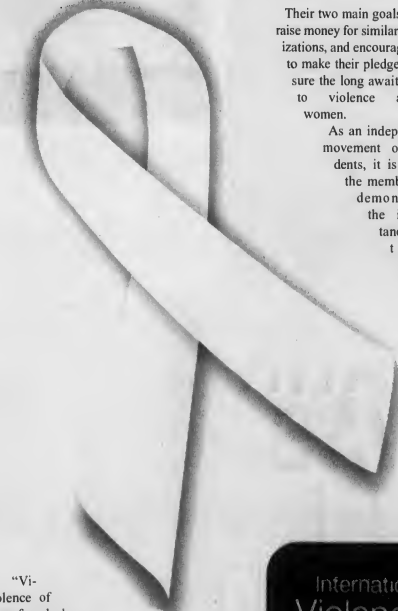
Contrary to what their critics say, wearing a white ribbon and belonging to the cause is not simply a way to do away with the guilt of their gender, it is a personal pledge by male members to never condone commit, or remain silent about brutality towards the opposite sex.

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) was first formed in Canada in the early nineties. It was created in response to the December 6, 1989 Montreal Massacre, an event in which a Canadian antifeminist, Mark Lepine (CQ), armed with a semi-automatic rifle, entered the L'École Polytechnique (CQ) in Montreal and murdered 14 women.

Psychology professor Chris Kilmartin popularized the campaign in the United States. After attending a conference in the mid '90s, his interest inspired a desire to bring the cause to the UMW community. After doing so, he became the unofficial national coordinator and a major player in the national campaign, assuming responsibilities such as receiving emails and sending out information to any who inquired.

The WRC at UMW, while focused on educating men on violence against women, encourages both sexes to join their cause.

Hassan Abdelhalim, chair of the campus campaign, is very concerned that students take responsibility to making campus safe.



"Violence of any form had no place on this campus and it is inspiring to see the amount of students interested in making the UMW community a safe place for everyone," Abdelhalim said.

Their two main goals are to raise money for similar organizations, and encourage men to make their pledge to ensure the long awaited end to violence against women.

As an independent movement of students, it is up to the members to demonstrate the importance of their cause, and

encourage other students to join. The WRC has accepted the help of faculty and students at UMW, as well as community outreach.

Also, organizations on campus, such as Psi Upsilon and Psi Chi have offered to support the campaign that will begin the first week of April. These organizations and students will help with funding and guidance for the WRC.

Members of the WRC are clearly dedicated to making an impact on the male community. They are noticeably proud of their members, as the responsibility is not an easy one to bear.

"It is a direct expression of the caliber and character of students at this campus who not only personally take steps to set a good example of a community, but strive and demand social action and a community of students who demand a safe environment for everyone on campus," Abdelhalim said. The campaign has proven problematic in the past, as some men label the WRC as sexist, Abdelhalim said, and feel blamed for the abuse. However, its success is evident in its popularity. The campaign is now present in 57 countries worldwide, and was so popular in

Canada, that one out of 9 men were wearing the white ribbon, including the Prime minister himself.

### Questions?

E-mail [habdelha@umw.edu](mailto:habdelha@umw.edu)  
or facebook "The UMW White Ribbon Campaign"

International Day for the Elimination of  
Violence Against Women





# Entertainment

## Nihilist Heroes set 'Watchmen' Apart

Zack Snyder's Latest Film Shows the Dark Side of the Superhero

By ALEX CULBRETH  
Staff Writer

In Zack Snyder's "Watchmen," the audience becomes immediately intrigued. The film opens with the death of the vigilante hero, The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), a montage showcasing the rise and fall of the original group of heroes. The Minutemen in the 1940s, and the rise of the second generation of heroes, The Watchmen.

The opening montage functions as a backstory for The Minutemen, displaying their glory days as well as their eventual downfall.

One hero is hauled off to a mental asylum while another is shown dead at the scene of a crime. This important scene imparts a truth shared by all the film's superheroes, with the exception of Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup): They possess no superpowers; they are all "only human."

Since the superheroes are merely human and don't possess laser vision, the ability to fly or any other powers, they are subject to the same weaknesses and imperfections as normal people. This is what truly sets "Watchmen" apart from other superhero films.

For instance, "Watchmen" touches on a disastriously emotional and sexual relationship between Silk Spectre II (Malin Akerman) and Dr. Manhattan. Silk Spectre II then runs into the waiting

arms of the film's somewhat geeky hero, Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson).

Amid this superhero love triangle, the hardened, gruff Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley) goes in search of the person that killed The Comedian.

While the other heroes have hung up their costumes and attempt

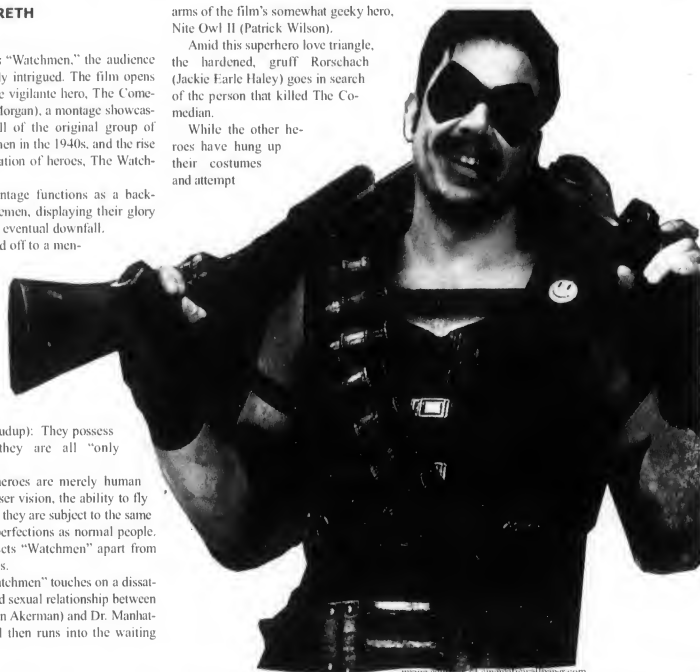


image courtesy of cinchidewallpaper.com

to enjoy their retired lives, Rorschach remains obsessed with maintaining his superhero responsibilities, patrolling the streets, hidden behind a mask of shifting inkblots.

The film's antagonist, Ozymandias (Matthew Goode), is a former member of the Watchmen who has gone on to create a superhero merchandise empire out of his former stint alongside the other heroes.

Amid the backdrop of a fictional 1980s in which Nixon is still in office, the heroes must deal not only with the search for The Comedian's murderer, but also their own temptations, obsessions and corruption.

In one flashback, The Comedian fires a shotgun into a crowd of protesters. Looking on in disgust, Nite Owl II asks, "What happened to the American dream?"

"It came true!" the Comedian responds.

In most other "standard" superhero comics and movies, this sort of nihilism and bitterness is not normally expressed in a character that is supposed to represent the "good guy."

This humanization of superheroes (who are supposed to be "above human") is what makes "Watchmen" a truly unique film.

Though the plot of "Watchmen" becomes slightly muddled as the film progresses, I feel that the presence of a concise, linear plot was not the point of the movie.

The film has its faults, just like its characters, but "Watchmen" has a unique concept that is executed wonderfully: the representation of superheroes as human, complete with all the flaws and eccentricities that accompany humanity.

On these grounds, "Watchmen" is definitely worth watching.

## Michael Jackson's Back:

The King of Pop Returns for 50 Final Shows

By LANDON JAMES  
Staff Writer

Just when you thought some artists never learned, Michael Jackson has agreed to appease his fans by playing to crowds one last time.

The King of Pop, now a remarkable 50 years old, will dawn the penny loafers and rhinestone-studded glove for one last tour beginning this summer.

Michael Jackson has agreed to play 50 shows at London's premier O2 Arena in what Jackson has aptly titled the "This Is It" tour, according to Google News.

Jackson originally announced in July, 2008, that he would be playing 10 concerts in the upcoming year; however, due to the remarkable demand by fans, Jackson agreed to 40 more shows and AEG Live added them to the docket.

Tickets officially went on sale at 7 a.m. Friday, March 13, and sold out within hours as hundreds of fans lined up outside the O2 arena waiting for their chance to be a part of history.

Out of 500,000 tickets, 336,000 sold out almost immediately in a special promotional presale before Friday. The remaining tickets sold out almost immediately.

The concerts, beginning July 8, will stretch into February 2010 and will be Jackson's first concert performance since 2001, first world tour in over 12 years and first public per-

formances since his child sex trials. The shows come only four years after Jackson was cleared of child abuse in the United States.

"These will be my final performances in London," Jackson announced to the thousands of fans who gathered for a live press release in front of the O2 Arena. "I will be performing the songs my fans want to hear."

Jackson is training an army of doubles to aid him in performing his more energetic and physically-demanding exercises, according to Bild.com.

However, Jackson's health has come up as a concern, and many are wondering if these last shows might push Jackson to the edge, or possibly even kill him.

Tim Leiweke, the CEO and President of AEG, has been trying to persuade Jackson to stage a comeback tour for two years. Leiweke also denied any claims that Jackson's health is too poor for the performances and stated that Jackson had to take a physical for the concerts, according to Canada.com.

Only time will tell the impact and music records these shows could break. With tickets ranging from 60 to 75 pounds to now well over 2,500 pounds, Jackson is expected to make millions of pounds through his comeback.

Until then, the world must wait until July 8 to see the King of Pop reclaim his throne on the global stage.



image courtesy of imagescelebrity.com

## Charity Compilation Raises AIDS Awareness, Rocks Out 'Dark Was the Night' Unifies Indie Rockers Behind a Good Cause

By RYAN MARR  
Staff Writer

I owe the music industry a long-overdue admission of guilt: I download music illegally. There, I said it—anyone under the age of 30: feel free to cast the first stone.

From my early prepubescent experiments with Kazaa (which may or may not have crashed my family's computer) to my current fixation with peer-to-peer file sharing giant Bit Torrent, I've always managed to get my grubby little thrift-stained hands on the latest music free of charge.

Enter "Dark Was the Night," the charity compilation sponsored by Red Hot, produced by brothers Aaron and Bryce Dessner (of the National) and featuring a track-list that reads like the roster of a 2009 indie rock all-star game.

Naturally, my conscience faced a seizure-inducing moral dilemma as I sat in front of my laptop, internally debating the ethical implications of illegally downloading a charity album.

The charity—the Red Hot Organization—is a 20-year-old company committed to eradicating AIDS and HIV by means of spreading awareness and raising money through popular culture.

"Dark Was the Night" not only uses popular culture to promote a charitable cause, but, with an arsenal of exclusive, original tracks from a plethora of emerging independent artists including

the Decemblers, Arcade Fire, the National, My Morning Jacket and Sufjan Stevens, the compilation ends up redefining it in the process.

It's near impossible to imagine a charity compilation that, despite sporting a few stand-out tracks, doesn't inevitably sink under the weight of half-baked meanderings from apathetic, yet lucrative, ego-tripping musicians.

With the exception of Buck 65's misstep, and a surprisingly lackluster Spoon song, "Dark Was the Night" notably man-

ages to score gems from artists whose individual

contributions are as ambitious in musical quality as the album is in scope.

I like to think of it as the Planet Earth of charity compilations.

Cramming 31 tracks over two discs, cleverly entitled "This Disc" and "That Disc," the Dessner brothers finally succeed in drawing up the first blueprints for a scene still too young to recognize its own significance. The end result is a sprawling, panoramic view of the current landscape of independent music.

"This Disc" showcases this landscape's pas-

sional, folk-derived roots with sparse arrangements from bearded neo-folkies Bon Iver and Iron & Wine, a surprisingly mournful duet between Feist and Death Cab for Cutie front man Ben Gibbard, and yet another brooding triumph from the National.

"That Disc" takes a more diverse approach, pitting the accordion-driven pop of Beirut against Cat Power's bluesy, organ-sized pipes and the soft, piano drone-musings of Yo La Tengo.

Sufjan Stevens even breaks his recent radio silence to lend the album its crowning achievement: a 10-minute Castanet cover that features a skittering drum machine, a classical piano interlude, and horns that could have been ripped from an Ennio Morricone soundtrack.

It's a wonder and a testament to the Dessner brothers' curative abilities that this eclectic collection of young artists feels like a cohesive statement at all, much less like the definitive statement of a generation of musicians.

"Dark Was the Night" evokes a "fallen" world of struggle, but also the capacity of art to inspire us to rise above the obstacles put in our path," Bryce Dessner writes in the liner notes of the album. "Our nights may be dark, but music gives us inspiration and hope of brighter days to come."

Not only is "Dark Was the Night" worth its weight in gold doubloons, it comes wrapped in a mantra that even a stingy, money-hoarding music

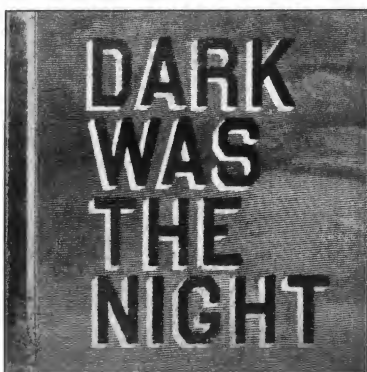


Image courtesy of amusestreet.com



# Features

## Profile: Alaha Ahrar at UMW

By VIRGINIA SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Freshman Alaha Ahrar believes that she represents a different Afghanistan; at 20 years old, she has high ambitions and is well on her way to achieving her goals.

William Crawley, Distinguished Professor of history for 40 years here at UMW, and his wife Theresa Crawley, are Ahrar's US sponsors.

The Crawleys, after learning that UMW was partaking in an organization called Initiative to Educate Afghan Women have already been sponsors for two other students.

Theresa Crawley runs her own dentistry office on Fall Hill Avenue, here in Fredericksburg, and provides dental care for each young woman who comes to study.

Ahrar began studying English at an early age despite the incredulosity of her neighbors and friends. In fact, she is an advocate for the education of women in Afghanistan, where women very rarely get the chance to finish our version of high school let alone attend the few universities in the country.

By the time of an Afghan girl's eighteenth birthday, many already have their marriage arranged and their lives planned for them.

Ahrar is one of the few given a chance to break the mold.

She is the daughter of a retired banker and a housewife. From a seemingly ordinary family, she arose with aspirations of being the first female president of Afghanistan.

Her English studies inspired her desire to one day go to the US to be educated. Ahrar got mixed reactions from neighbors and family friends; they either laughed at her in slight ridicule, attributing her dreams to the fact she was a child or praised her ambition and wished her the best.

However, Ahrar maintained her dreams of coming to US; when asked why she chose America, she replied, "Because I saw it as the top, the best."

Despite Ahrar's high hopes, then and now, she remains very loyal to her parents and always asks permission and their blessing on everything she does. Her parents may seem liberal to let their daughter travel abroad to further her education despite the danger she could be



Courtesy of IEAW NEWS

**Alaha Ahrar, an international exchange student from Afghanistan, stands with her Initiative to Educate Afghan Women sponsors, Dr. William Crawley and his wife Dr. Theresa Crawley. Ahrar will be studying at the University for the next four years.**

in for her progressive thinking. However, Ahrar described them as somewhat moderate amidst the society of Afghanistan.

Ahrar knew early on that in order to reach the level of education to which

she aspired, she would be forced to travel outside her country. She explained that it is simply not safe for women to go to school, or even to travel to and from school.

It is, however, acceptable in

Afghanistan for a woman to have a job, but safety is still an issue. Ahrar herself had a driver who chauffeured her to and from work.

The abundance of colleges and universities in Afghanistan is also stagger-

ingly different from in the US.

The Kabul University of Afghanistan is the main public university that provides learning and higher

See Ahrar, page 8 ▶

## Fight Violence With Ribbons

By MEGAN ORTIZ  
Staff Writer

The White Ribbon Campaign's ultimate goal is to completely eradicate male violence against women.

Contrary to what their critics say, wearing a white ribbon and belonging to the cause is not simply a way to do away with the guilt of their gender, it is a personal pledge by male members to never condone commit, or remain silent about brutality towards the opposite sex.

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) was first formed in Canada in the early nineties. It was created in response to the December 6, 1989 Montreal Massacre, an event in which a Canadian antifeminist, Mark Lepine (CQ), armed with a semi-automatic rifle, entered the L'ecole Polytechnique (CQ) in Montreal and murdered 14 women.

Psychology professor Chris Kilmartin popularized the campaign in the United States. After attending a conference in the mid '90s, his interest inspired a desire to bring the cause to the UMW community. After doing so, he became the unofficial national coordinator and a major player in the national campaign, assuming responsibilities such as receiving emails and sending out information to any who inquired.

The WRC at UMW, while focused on educating men on violence against women, encourages both sexes to join their cause.

Hassan Abdelhalim, chair of the campus campaign, is very concerned that students take responsibility to making campus safe.

"Violence of any form had no place on this campus and it is inspiring to see the amount of students interested in making the UMW community a safe place for everyone," Abdelhalim said.

Their two main goals are to raise money for similar organizations, and encourage men to make their pledge to ensure the long awaited end to violence against women.

As an independent movement of students, it is up to the members to demonstrate the importance of their cause, and

encourage other students to join. The WRC has accepted the help of faculty and students at UMW, as well as community outreach.

Also, organizations on campus, such as Psi Upsilon and Psi Chi have offered to support the campaign that will begin the first week of April. These organizations and students will help with funding and guidance for the WRC.

Members of the WRC are clearly dedicated to making an impact on the male community. They are noticeably proud of their members, as the responsibility is not an easy one to bear.

"It is a direct expression of the caliber and character of students at this campus who not only personally take steps to set a good example of a community, but strive and demand social action and a community of students who demand a safe environment for everyone on campus," Abdelhalim said. The campaign has proven problematic in the past, as some men label the WRC as sexist, Abdelhalim said, and feel blamed for the abuse. However, its success is evident in its popularity. The campaign is now present in 57 countries worldwide, and was so popular in

Canada, that one out of 9 men were wearing the white ribbon, including the Prime minister himself.

Questions?

E-mail [habdelha@umw.edu](mailto:habdelha@umw.edu)  
or facebook "The UMW White Ribbon Campaign"

International Day for the Elimination of  
Violence Against Women

25 November



# THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID...

By **BRITTANY De VRIES**  
Features Editor

"You look stupid." "You look incredible." "Beautiful." "Quasi-hooker."

I also received "that's so awesome, yes!" and an "alien Marilyn Monroe." One man robustly walked up to me, stood and stared blankly for about 45 seconds, then walked away.

Leaving the Blarney Stone on Caroline Street, a six-year-old girl looked at me and bitterly scowled, "greeeeeen hair."

That little jerk. You couldn't miss me, but no one had any idea that that green-haired bonnie lass, complete with Mardi Gras beads, fishnets, and Benson and Hedges Ultra Lights, was me. My roommate had, what with green shoes, green suspenders, green tights, green eyeshadow, and Irish buttons, more flare than myself.

She coined it perfectly as we grabbed every toy and trinket possible at Party City—"Is it St. Patrick's Day or Halloween?"

I laughed. Her point was significant. Is St. Patrick's Day just an excuse to get drunk and party?

Oh yes, it definitely has lost its roots to a sea of Guinness and green attire. But then again, what's Christmas without presents, Easter without jellybeans or Thanksgiving without glutony?

Maybe you are an eighth Irish, or one quarter Irish, but we really are all fun-loving Americans.

Despite my chugging, my chain smoking, my change of hair—and by such, identity—despite all that, it's nice to think that people, with a little bit of nationally recognized motivation, T-shirts, and a few strands of green beads around their necks, can relax. That people can get away from nine-to-five jobs or their many monotonous textbook pages to have a little fun.

And as I surveyed Capital Ale House and its at-capacity swarm of all things green singing "Sweet Caroline," I whispered to my friend, "Don't you wish people could be this happy all the time?"

I'm not sure if she heard me. She was crooning to Neil Diamond.

It is true, though. I live downtown, and I frequent these same bars all the time. But never have I posed with bag pipers, skipped down the middle of William St., or sang "Sweet Caroline" with absolutely every person in the bar. I've never danced Irish jigs with dart players, or stolen flowers from City Hall. I've never peed in a rather leafy alley, or made a little child sneer and old women laugh because of my hair color. Never was it all in the very same night.

During last call at J. Brians, the sad point of the evening when the room became a non-smoking environment, I went to the bar for my tab. A young guy asked me if I

wanted a drink, as if I needed one more beer to askew even further my fine balance of wig, nicotine, and high heels.

I said yes, and I'm glad that I did. His name was Patrick. My

very own St. Patrick to complete my exciting Irish night.

He thanked me for wearing a wig. I thanked St. Patrick for buying my beer.

Next thing I knew, I woke up in my bed with a box of Wheat Thins, an unfortunate lung capacity, and beads tangled with strands of neon green plastic hair.

I dragged myself out of bed, gulped glasses of water beside the kitchen sink for a few minutes, and headed back to the real world.

Thanks, St. Patrick.



# Ahrar: Far From Home

“ We are all human, we are all the same, we all have the same feelings.

—Alaha, on how traveling can better an individual ”

## STUDENT, page 7

education in fields similar, if not the same, as the ones Mary Washington offers. There is a recent, small growth in choices for higher learning, the American University of Afghanistan has now opened, but it is much more expensive to attend than Kabul University.

As aforementioned, Ahrar's desire to travel to the U.S. for college was intense. At long last, her dream has been realized.

Ahrar's journey to Fredericksburg began with a youth group out of Australia; she found them and intrigued them by sending articles she had written and interviews she had done. Going to Australia was her second choice; she also wanted to keep her options open in case something happened and she could not go to America.

Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, himself offered to send her to India to further her studies, yet she declined because she knew she would not make the mark she was striving for if she went to India.

The interviews Ahrar had done were through several different television stations, and they were usually based in Washington, D.C.

She interviewed over the phone with the VOA (Voice of Afghanistan) News and the National Television of Afghanistan. She was also featured in an issue of Red Cross magazine, The Red Cross Youth E-zine, in July 2008.

Despite all her experience speaking English, in order to come to a college in America she had to take an Internet-based test.

This test, the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), was to affirm her ability to read, write, speak, and listen in English.

She graduated with honors from her school and the American Ambassador to Afghanistan found her admirable and her TOEFL score stated her mastery of English.

Ahrar will be studying at UMW for four years to complete a bachelor's degree and is considering a double major in political science and international relations. Both majors are fitting for someone who wants to become the first female President of Afghanistan, or a leader in supporting women's rights.

During the summers, she will return to Afghanistan, but during winter break, she stays in the U.S.

This past winter break, she went to Newburn, NC with some other girls on

scholarships to the United States.

Paula Nischel, who is the founder of the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women, rented three buildings, right near the beach, for the girls to stay in while their respective schools were on break.

According to Ahrar, she hasn't had too much trouble adjusting to life at UMW.

She said that she has been welcomed with open arms; her friends and professors have reached out to let her know that if she needs anything, just to ask.

However, Alaha's host in the US is Martin A. Wilder, Jr. and his family.

"They are too kind to me; whenever I feel lonely I find them around me and they often take me to restaurants for having lunch. The both always give me the love of parents and I love them both as much as I love my parents," Alaha said.

Before leaving home, Ahrar previously had pictures in her head of what America would look like. But her expectations and reality didn't match up exactly.

She imagined tall buildings, somewhat like what would be found in New York City, that blocked the sun.

When she touched down on U.S. soil she quickly realized the sun was still visible.

When asked what she would like to change about America, or its citizens, she replied, "Respect... especially for the teachers."

Ahrar would like to see students stand when the professor walks into the room for lecture; she doesn't want anyone to take the "freedom of knowledge," as she called it, for granted.

Ahrar also fiercely believes that traveling and seeing different cultures will make a more complete person; "We are all human, we are all the same, we all have the same feelings."

Ahrar is aware of the type of stigma Afghanistan and its people have in America. She wants people to know and understand that the Afghan people are not poor; they are not beggars or criminals either.

Ahrar wants to be able to use the education and experiences she gains in the US to improve life and conditions in Afghanistan, which she still considers her home.

UMW's participation in the program was intended to help Afghan girls, like Ahrar, to gain the skills and tools to work for and implement real change in their struggling country.

## Coming Soon...

## University Cafe

### Coffee House - Lounge - Bar

### Affordable Food & Live Entertainment!

### Downtown

### 409 William Street

### Eagleone Accepted

## This Week In Town

### Thursday

Saffire, the Uppity Blues Women  
Borders in Central Park. 7 p.m. No cover. Call Borders at (540) 785-6171 for more details

"Exploring Dragon Run"  
Join Teta Kain for a slideshow on an undisturbed marshy forest in Virginia's middle peninsula. 7 p.m., Salem Church Library. (540) 895- 9261

Barnum and Baileys Circus  
Thursday-Saturday at the Verizon Center in D.C.  
www.ringling.com or (202) 628-3200 for tickets.

### Friday

Back Roads Bluegrass Band, no cover, 8-11 p.m.  
The Recreation Center, 213 William St.  
(540) 371-6498

Flashback Friday  
dancing to 70s, 80s, and 90s music

21 and up  
Liberty Lanes at Southpoint Blvd.  
(540) 710-7467

### Saturday

Book Signing  
Keith Donehue, author of "Angels of Destruction: a Novel." 2-4 p.m.  
The Griffin Bookshop and Coffee Bar, on Caroline St.  
www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com

Laura Shepherd, acoustic

and vocals  
7:30 p.m.  
The Griffin Bookshop and Coffee Bar, on Caroline St.  
www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com

### Sunday

Junior Ring Week Market Square Concert  
The Like Whatever, Green Boys, and According to Plan Free  
3-6 p.m.  
(540) 654-1135

# News

## Outside the Fence



By **HEATHER BRADY**  
Staff Writer

### Regional

The Fredericksburg School Board unanimously adopted the budget for 2010 Monday night that factors in a \$1 million reduction in funding proposed by City Manager Phillip Rodenberg, including teacher reductions and elimination of a summer school program. Superintendent David Melton said that despite a number of cuts from his original proposal last November, including four full-time and two part-time teaching positions, "there is still a very large gap between the budget we have proposed and the funds available." The reduction would save \$247,000, and the second category of cuts, which involves programs like high school summer school, was eliminated at a savings of \$37,000. *(The Free Lance-Star, March 18; www.fredericksburg.com)*

### National

Edward Liddy, chief executive of insurance giant American International Group, told Congress Wednesday that he allowed millions of dollars in "distasteful" bonuses to be paid to top employees of a troubled division because he was trying to prevent that business from collapsing. He added that he has asked recipients to return part of the payments in view of public outrage over them. Liddy, who took control of AIG in September at the government's request, testified before a House panel that he shares the anger of taxpayers at the company, and would not have approved the \$165 million in retention bonuses paid last weekend if he had been in charge at the time they were authorized. He said AIG has been making progress in winding down the problematic part of the firm, but he noted that the division, AIG Financial Products, still has \$1.6 trillion portfolio that continues to impose "substantial risk." *(The Washington Post, March 18; www.washingtonpost.com)*

### Global

Pope Benedict XVI said Tuesday that condoms are not the answer to Africa's fight against HIV as he began a week-long trip to the continent. This was the pope's first explicit statement on an issue that has divided even clergy working with AIDS patients. Benedict arrived in Yaounde, Cameroon's capital, on Tuesday afternoon. The visit is his first pilgrimage as pontiff to Africa. The pope said a responsible and moral attitude toward sex would help fight the disease. According to UNAIDS, about 22 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are infected with HIV. In 2007, three-quarters of all AIDS deaths worldwide were there, as well as two-thirds of all people living with HIV. *(The Washington Post, March 18; www.washingtonpost.com)*

## Klein Theatre Ready for Construction in Spring

◀ **KLEIN, page 1**

ago. According to Paul Messplay, executive director of budget and financial analysis, the bonds are worth \$5,000,000 and \$1,750,000, respectively.

The renovations will include "a replacement of the sound system and the lighting system and some cosmetic renovations to the theater itself," Stull said.

Julie Hodge, associate professor of theatre and dance, says that the current light and sound systems are simply too out-of-date.

"They're so archaic," Hodge said. "The theatre was designed not realizing that theatre would change. We can't begin to train [theatre majors] on what the state-of-the-art is."

Though Hodge admits that the theater will not be able to obtain the most up-to-date equipment, she says that anything would be better than the current fifteen-year-old light-board.

"Everything is digital now," Hodge

said. "It's like using a fifteen-year old computer."

"Hanging lights [is] difficult," said Ferrell, in agreement that the systems are out of date. "[The renovations] will make it much easier for lighting instruments to be hung."

Hodge said that cosmetic renovations are likely to include curtains, but may also include the seats and the lobby.

"I haven't seen the revised drawings," said Hodge, who remarked that they the theatre department has had to lower expectations for how much they can renovate based on how much it will all cost.



Sean Comerford/Bullet

"We haven't had house lights that have worked in years," Hodge said. "And it will be \$4,000 or \$5,000 just to fix them."

## Motion Passes for CSA Lounge

*Lounge intended to provide advertising and event space for commuter students.*

◀ **LOUNGE, page 1**

licity Chair Daniel Kauffman.

"CSA is a major interest group, but we could do so much more," Kauffman said. "A lounge would allow us to advertise and have events."

Kauffman says that commuter students need to be encouraged to interact more with on-campus students. But some commuters, like sophomore Dustin Lieske, feel that commuters do not need a lounge to feel connected.

"Last year I was lazy and not really involved, so I didn't meet too many people outside of my classes," Lieske said. "This year I am involved in a lot of things and have met a ton of people."

Lieske feels there are plenty of spaces on campus to go.

"I usually try to schedule my classes back to back, but between classes I normally eat at Seacobeck or the Nest," Lieske said. Shaikh disagrees because she feels a lounge would attract more than commuters and be used by all students.

"We would put up a plaque saying commuter lounge, but anybody can use it," Shaikh said. "We won't kick non-commuters out."

As the University aims to diversify the population, Shaikh says that a lounge may help bring more commuters to the University. The recession could make it difficult for students to afford living on campus when they have the option of commuting.

"With the economic downturn we are in, those student populations are only going to increase," O'Brien said.

A commuter lounge would allow students to mingle with others who have similar situations.

"As a freshman, I lived in Mason. The Mason lounge was a place for people to meet others with similar housing situations," Kauffman said.

The commuter lounge was not heavily used when it was around, prior to the Lee Hall construction, according to Rucker.

"When I went in, there was only ever four or five students at a time," Rucker said.

The James Farmer Multicultural Center needed to use the space where the lounge had been after Lee Hall closed.

According to Rucker, a commuter lounge will not be established for this year because the Multicultural Center will continue to be in the Tan Room until Fall 2009.

"The motion was a look into a lounge so I think as the move to Lee Hall is finalized, we will have a better idea of what available space would present a good option," SGA President O'Brien said.

The cost for a commuter lounge is currently unknown because the planning stages have just begun.

"Even in the budget situation we find ourselves in, I do not feel that the cost would be prohibitive," O'Brien said, adding that he has talked to commuters about this issue. "[They] are not looking for a state-of-the-art hangout; they are looking for a place where they can meet people and socially and professionally network."

A student committee is also compiling a report in response to the library protest during finals in the Fall 2008 semester, which will include a section about the commuter lounge. According to O'Brien, the protest was not just about library hours, but also about a need for student space. The report is going to be sent to the Acting Provost Nina Mikhalevsky.

"Included in that report will probably be the recommendation to re-establish a commuter lounge," O'Brien said. CSA hopes that through this committee, not affiliated with SGA, and through their SGA motion, a lounge will be established.

"It won't happen this year, but the process is started to put it into construction plans," Abdelhalim said.

“CSA is a major interest group, but we could do so much more. A lounge would allow us to advertise and have events.”

—Daniel Kauffman

## Coming Soon...

## University Cafe

Coffee House - Lounge - Bar

Affordable Food & Live Entertainment!

Downtown

409 William Street

Eagleone Accepted

## Up to 1 month FREE.\*

### Extra Space Storage® of Fredericksburg



### Visit the most convenient self-storage facility in the area.

Come into Extra Space Storage and experience the most exceptional storage experience available. Extra Space Storage offers extra secure facilities, extra professional staff and extra convenient locations. Notice the difference a clean, well-lit facility can make. Plus, get up to 1 month FREE storage! \* You deserve Extra Space.

Extra Space Storage  
of Fredericksburg  
4701 Jefferson Davis Hwy  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
(540) 896-9220

Extra Space Storage  
of Fredericksburg  
10815 Courthouse Rd  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
(540) 896-7844

Extra Space Storage  
of Fredericksburg  
2403 Plank Rd  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 873-5031

Extra Space Storage  
of Fredericksburg  
5219 Plank Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
(540) 785-1788

### UP TO 1 MONTH FREE!

Come into Extra Space Storage to experience our hassle-free, secure, self-storage facilities... plus, get up to 1 month FREE.

Hurry, offer expires May 31, 2009!

Reserve online at  
[www.extraspace.com](http://www.extraspace.com)



\*Offer is based on unit availability on new rentals by new customers only. Offer is only valid with presentation of this coupon upon rental. Offer excludes applicable administrative and insurance fees. Not valid with any discount offers. Offer has no cash value. Features vary by location. Void where prohibited. See manager for details. ©2009 Extra Space Storage LLC. MW10-001E COLLEGE Offer expires May 31, 2009.

## Want this space!

Remaining Editions  
March 25  
April 1\*, 8, 15, 22

**Classified Ads:** Ads cost \$1 per word for any advertiser that is not associated with the University of Mary Washington. For those associated with the college, the cost is \$.20 per word.

- All advertisements are due by 7 p.m. the Sunday prior to the date of publication.
- After publication, a copy of the ad will be sent to you along with your invoice.

### Special Rates:

For those NOT affiliated with the University of Mary Washington-

	1/8 page	1/4 page	1/2 page	Full page	Discount
1 insertion	\$70.00	\$110.00	\$175.00	\$300.00	
4 insertions	\$252.00	\$369.00	\$630.00	\$1,080.00	10%
6 insertions	\$357.00	\$561.00	\$892.00	\$1,530.00	15%
12 insertions	\$672.00	\$1,056.00	\$1,680.00	\$2,880.00	20%

For those affiliated with the University of Mary Washington-

	1/8 page	1/4 page	1/2 page	Full page	Discount
1 insertion	\$59.50	\$93.50	\$148.75	\$255.00	15%
4 insertions	\$224.00	\$316.80	\$504.00	\$864.00	20%
6 insertions	\$315.00	\$495.00	\$787.00	\$1,350.00	25%
12 insertions	\$588.00	\$924.00	\$1,470.00	\$2,520.00	20%

### Contact:

Mike Downey

E-Mail: [mdowney2@mail.umw.edu](mailto:mdowney2@mail.umw.edu)

Phone-703-200-7835

# TOYOTA

## THE MOST FUEL EFFICIENT FULL LINE CAR COMPANY\*

# \$400

### INCENTIVE

As a recent college grad, you may be eligible for a **\$400 Incentive** on any new Toyota of your choice **in addition to other incentives.\*\***

See your Toyota dealer for details.

**\$400 Incentive**  
(College Grad Program\*\*)

+

VISIT [buyatoyota.com](http://buyatoyota.com)  
for additional offers

**YOU SAVE UP FRONT  
AND AT THE PUMP!**

NEW 2008

RAV4

EPA EST  
**27**  
MPG HWY



NEW 2009

COROLLA

EPA EST  
**35**  
MPG HWY



EPA EST  
**32**  
MPG HWY

NEW 2009

MATRIX



NEW 2008

YARIS

EPA EST  
**36**  
MPG HWY



TOYOTA  
moving forward

[buyatoyota.com](http://buyatoyota.com)

\*BASED ON NHTSA FINAL INDUSTRY AVERAGE DATA FOR TOYOTA MOTOR SALES. \*\*NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. CUSTOMERS RECEIVE \$400 FROM TOYOTA TOWARDS LEASING OR FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF NEW UNTITLED TOYOTA MODELS THROUGH PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALERS AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. SEE DEALER OR VISIT [WWW.TOYOTAFINANCIAL.COM/FINANCE](http://WWW.TOYOTAFINANCIAL.COM/FINANCE) FOR DETAILS. COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR TERMINATION AT ANY TIME. \*EPA ESTIMATED HWY MPG FOR 2008 RAV4 2WD AUTO MODEL 4430 AND YARIS LIFTBACK SSP MANUAL MODEL 1421. EPA ESTIMATED HWY MPG FOR 2009 COROLLA AND MATRIX 2WD MODEL EXCLUDING XRS. ESTIMATED MILEAGE VARIES BY MODEL AND TRANSMISSION. YOUR ACTUAL MILEAGE WILL VARY. TO LEARN MORE VISIT [WWW.FUELECONOMY.GOV](http://WWW.FUELECONOMY.GOV).



# Sports



## Women's Lax No. 18 After Big Win Over W&L

◀ No. 8, page 12

over 21 minutes left in the game, as they took a two-goal lead with Kimmelman's third goal of the game. However, the Generals were determined, and tied the score at eight before Kimmelman returned with her fourth and fifth goals of the game.

The final goal came by the generals with a little of two minutes remaining in the game, but it was not enough as the Washington and Lee Generals were forced to make the 139-mile drive home with heavy hearts and disappointed minds.

The numbers proved an absolute flurry of offense, as the Eagles outshot the Generals by a margin of 26-18 and held the ground ball advantage 28-23.

Freshman goalie Danni Guigli notched seven saves for the Eagles, while Washington and Lee's double-team of freshman Jennifer Lindner and sophomore Katharine Farrar combined for seven saves as well.

Looking forward, Hall hopes to keep a positive attitude the rest of the way.

"We are looking to take everything one game at a time," Hall said. "That's going to be the best way to prepare."

The next game on the schedule was played



Courtesy Clint Offen

Senior attack Julie Milner, here against Wesley (3/10)

yesterday at home against Randolph-Macon College, but the results came in too late for print. Looking forward, the Eagles have a game on the road against Dickinson College tomorrow and then a game at home this Saturday at one against Hood College in a Capital Athletic Conference matchup.

## Men's Tennis Slams Past CAC Rivals Wesley and W&L

By SARAH ALVAREZ  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the No. 12 University of Mary Washington men's tennis team took on No. eight Washington and Lee University and Capital Athletic Conference rival Wesley College in a double header at the UMW Indoor Tennis Center.

The day of matches resulted in impressive victories leading to a renewed sense of team confidence and boosted morale after a rocky streak of matches at the ITA Indoor National Championship and in California.

The day began with a sweep in doubles against the Washington and Lee Generals. With three of three court finishing points well the Eagles managed a convincing win early in the match.

A new doubles team, among other factors, contributed to this success as freshman Andrew Frisk and junior Evan Goff came out strong in the beginning of their sets scoring points off impressive serves in addition to returning volleys with impeccable accuracy.

Effective communication for doubles is key; Frisk and Goff's early win proved their exceptional execution of this important skill.

"We both were enjoying ourselves out on the court and being very positive in our self talk, which is key to playing well in tennis," Goff said.

Fellow teammate junior Eric Sundstrom commented on his teammate's performance with an optimistic attitude.

"They finish points well at the net," Sundstrom said. "They gel well together."

This pair's success was not unique. The rest of the Eagles, on courts one and three, finished strong with 8-1 and 8-3 victories respectively.

Early successes helped to ignite a momentum that would lead them, later in the day, to repeat this same outcome.

Sophomore Bryce Parrish noted his teammates' quick start in doubles and predicted their eventual victory in the remaining single sets.

"There is a great energy today," Parrish said. "It will help propel us into singles with momentum."

The Generals, a noted Eagles rival, came back with determination for singles after their defeat early in the day. However, despite the Generals' efforts the Eagles managed to keep the Generals from a win by taking four of six courts into victory. The day's earlier momentum proved strong enough to help the team top the Generals 7-2.

"It was a great feeling to be able to have a tough fought 7-2 win over Washington and Lee," Goff said. "All the guys are working extremely hard so when you get a nice win over a quality team it feels good."

After a strong start to the double header, the Eagles continued their earlier streak of strong tennis to take on the Wesley College Wolverines in a Capital Athletic Conference match. The Eagles swept in doubles with 8-0 victories across courts one through three.

Capitalizing on the day's energy and momentum the Eagles once again showed little could stop them in their 5-1 performances in singles, only allowing for one Wolverine point by default. The 8-1 victory for the Eagles left the team with a heightened spirit for the remainder of the season.

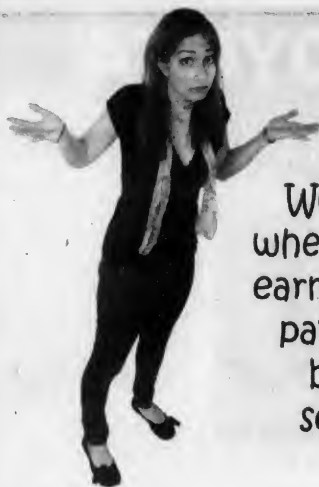
These two wins help the Eagles gain strong ground and momentum for some of their upcoming matches against Swarthmore College and Haverford College on Saturday and Sunday respectively.



**Love sports but hate to sweat?**

**Register for Journalism Practicum Next Week**

**Contact Joey Merkel  
jmerk5zi@umw.edu**



**Wondering  
where you can  
earn more and  
pay less for  
banking  
services?**

**You belong with us at  
Virginia Credit Union.**

All the convenience with fewer fees,  
great service and strong returns.

**Visit [www.vacu.org](http://www.vacu.org) or call for more  
information about our  
Fredericksburg branches.  
(540) 899-4466**

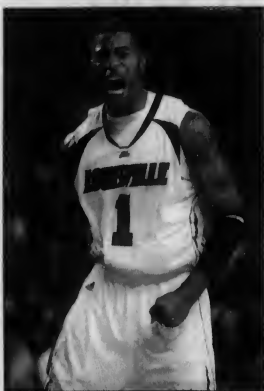


**VIRGINIA CREDIT UNION**

Virginia Credit Union is federally insured by the  
National Credit Union Administration.

# Sports

## March Madness 2009



Courtesy of alac1508, flickr.com

**Terrence Williams, University of Louisville Cardinals**

By **NICK NELSON**  
Staff Writer

When three conferences are able to send seven of their teams to the NCAA tournament, you know that it won't just be March Madness, but a month of sheer basketball insanity.

The Big East, Big Ten and Atlantic Coast Conference storylines were just a microcosm of college basketball's Division-I shakedown heading through the conference tournaments and determining the seeding for the NCAA National Championship that starts today.

In addition to sending seven total teams, the Big East boasts three number one seeds, a

record for any conference in tournament time, the University of Connecticut Huskies, the University of Pittsburgh Panthers and the University of Louisville Cardinals.

The University of North Carolina Tar Heels hold the final number-one seed. The Heels are just one of the seven teams being sent by the ACC to play in the "Big Dance." Interestingly, the Louisville Cardinals were the only number one seed to win their conference tournament, a testament to the dominant strength of the Big East throughout the regular season.

In addition to the powerhouses of the Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference, smaller conferences are also sending their representation, and the mid-major teams are arguably the most compelling parts of this year's tournament.

DC-local and 14-seeded American University will be representing the Patriot League in the tournament for the second year in a row after never tasting tournament competition before their first round exit against the University of Tennessee last year.

Binghamton University, a school in upstate New York, is playing in the dance for the first time in school history after winning the America East Conference tournament. As a 15-seed, they will face the second-seeded Duke University Blue Devils. Last year, Duke was a two-seed in 2008 and was nearly upset in the first round against the 15-seed Belmont Bears in a game that saw Duke win by a 71-70 margin and nearly broke many brackets across the country.

Analysts around the country are in agreement that the most exciting story to come out of the end of the basketball season had to be the six-over-time marathon game played be-

tween Syracuse University and the University of Connecticut in the quarterfinals of the Big East Conference tournament.

After 70 minutes of game time, the final saw the Orangemen stun the heavily favored Huskies by a score of 127-117. It was the longest game in Big East history, one overtime period short of the NCAA record, and only two overtimes away from clocking in as two regulation-length games in one.

Opinions around the Mary Washington campus and beyond are mixed as to who will end up victorious and be crowned the best college basketball team in the land. Washington Post columnist Tony Kornheiser selected the University of Pittsburgh as the national champion, while four of the five columnists on CBS Sports select North Carolina as champion. However, star point guard Ty Lawson is currently questionable for the Tar Heels.

Mary Washington junior David Spencer had his own opinions on the winner, as well as a few other selections.

"Oklahoma is my pick to win," Spencer said. "They're in an easy [regional] bracket, and Blake Griffin gives Tyler Hansbrough a run for his money."

Spencer also had a view on the sleeper and most overrated team.

"Virginia Commonwealth is the sleeper this year," said Spencer. "They're this year's Davidson. They play UCLA, who has to fly cross-country to play. If they beat UCLA, they have a real chance to beat Villanova and get to at least the Sweet 16."

"But Memphis is so overrated," he continued. "I'll sing

it until I die. Print that. They play absolutely nobody all year and get a two seed. They're the basketball version of Notre Dame football."

While Notre Dame has enjoyed a 3-9 2007 season and just squeezed into a bowl game at 7-6 last year, it should be noted that Memphis was the tournament runner-up last year and are currently on a 25-game win streak.

Tournament action begins today at 12:25 p.m. as the second-seeded Memphis Tigers square off against the 15-seed Cal State Northridge Matadors and continues through the field of 64 until the championship game on April 6, played in Detroit at Ford Field.



Courtesy of Wikipedia



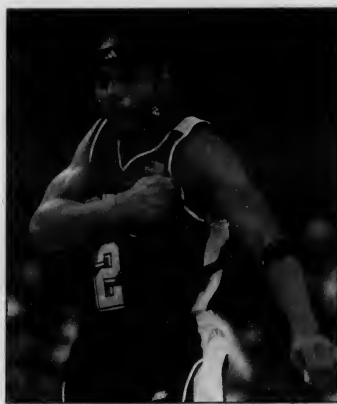
Courtesy of abqj004, flickr.com

**Tyler Hansbrough, University of North Carolina Tar Heels**



Courtesy of flovay, flickr.com

**Hasheen Thabeet, University of Connecticut Huskies**



Courtesy of polishhammer, flickr.com

**Levance Fields, University of Pittsburgh Panthers**

## No. 8 Washington and Lee No Match For Eagles

By **NICK NELSON**  
Staff Writer

With a chill in the air and intermittent rain, the University of Mary Washington women's lacrosse team pulled off a titanic upset against No. eight Washington and Lee, the Eagles narrowly edging the Generals 10-9.

The women had come into Saturday's matchup with a strong start to the season, at 4-2 overall and a perfect 2-0 in Capital Athletic Conference matchups. The win sent them to 5-2 on the season, while Washington and Lee fell to 3-2 overall.

The win also let the Eagles avenge a tough loss to Washington and Lee from last season, when the Generals were No. seven in the country.

This year's game showed off the power of a young team with 11 freshmen, as well as the experience brought in by seniors Emily Gallugi, Julia Milner and Kate Tarr.

Freshman attacker Allie Kimmelman in particular led the Eagle attack, with a barrage of five goals and an assist. Sophomore Katie Wallis also had a strong afternoon

with four goals.

"We haven't beaten [Washington and Lee] in a while. It's always close," Coach Dana Hall said. "It was a great game against one of our biggest rivals. Beating the eighth-ranked team shows people that we can play anyone."

"We have 11 freshmen, and they really contributed today and really came together with the upperclassmen," Hall said.

The scoring opened in favor of the Generals, as junior Meredith Freeman scored with 28 minutes and 33 seconds remaining in the first half. Not to be outdone, the Eagles responded with a pair of goals by Wallis within the next six minutes of gameplay. The Generals tied it up again with 20 minutes and 37 seconds remaining, but the Eagles pushed the lead to 4-2 with goals by Kimmelman and Wallis. After a 2-1 scoring run by the Generals, Eagles went into the halftime intermission leading 5-4.

Scoring came fast and furious in the second half, and the Eagles were not able to gain a solid advantage with just

## Athlete of the Week

**Freshman attack Allie Kimmelman went for five goals and an assist in the women's lacrosse team's win against No. 8 Washington and Lee.**



Courtesy Clint Olien